



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

15 West Yakima Avenue, Suite 200 • Yakima, Washington 98902-3452 • (509) 575-2490
April 12, 2004

«Name»
«Company»
«Address»
«CityStateZip»

RE: River Forecasts for the Wenatchee, Methow, and Okanogan Rivers

The letter below is sent to you for your information only. A similar letter was sent to water right holders in the Okanogan, Methow, and Wenatchee river basins that have water rights that are subject to regulation in favor of the minimum instream flows.

The River Forecast Center has released forecasts for the April through September period for the rivers in North Central Washington. The April 1 forecasts for the following rivers are:

Okanogan River	68% of average
Methow River	73% of average
Wenatchee River	75% of average

As you can see, the rivers are well below the average flows. Based on this forecast, it is very likely that water use restrictions will be imposed this irrigation season on water users with water right permits or certificates provisioned with instream flows.

Later this irrigation season, the Department of Ecology will begin operating a Toll-Free River Flow Information Line. The recorded message will state whether each river is above or below the minimum flows and whether you may withdraw or divert water under your water right. The message will be updated on a regular basis throughout the irrigation season. When the river levels drop close to the minimum flows, you will receive notice from this office concerning the phone number and when you must call.

If you have plans to temporarily transfer a non-interruptible water right to lands which have interruptible water rights, you should be requesting approval from this office as soon as you determine your needs.

If you have any questions, please contact this office at (509) 575-2490.

Sincerely,

Phil Crane
Water Resources Program

PC:gh
040415

READING

FILE COPY





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April 12, 2004

«FirstName» «LastName»
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RE: River Forecasts for the Methow River - «ControlNo»

The River Forecast Center has released forecasts for the April through September period for the rivers in North Central Washington. On April 1, the forecast for the Methow River was 73% of the annual average for the 2004 irrigation season.

As you can see, the river is well below the average flows. Based on this forecast, it is very likely that water use restrictions will be imposed this irrigation season on water users with water right permits or certificates provisioned with instream flows.

Later this irrigation season, the Department of Ecology will begin operating a Toll-Free River Flow Information Line. The recorded message will state whether each river is above or below the minimum flows and whether you may withdraw or divert water under your water right. The message will be updated on a regular basis throughout the irrigation season. When the river levels drop close to the minimum flows, you will receive notice from this office concerning the phone number and when you must call.

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Sincerely,

Phil Crane
Water Resources Program

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DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

IN THE MATTER OF THE DIVERSION) ORDER
OR WITHDRAWAL OF PUBLIC WATERS UNDER) NO. DE «DocketNo»
«ControlNo»)

«Company»
«FirstName» «LastName»
«Address»
«CityStateZip»

The Department of Ecology is responsible for the supervision of public waters within the state and their appropriation, diversion (withdrawal), storage (dam safety), and use, Chapter 43.21A.064 Revised Code of Washington (RCW).

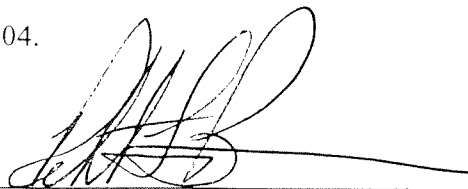
Your water right permit or certificate is subject to minimum flows established for the Methow River at the «GaugingStn» Gauging Station (and any reaches further downstream). On Wednesday, June 16, 2004, the flow of the Methow River at Pateros was 2480 cfs. The minimum flow adopted by Chapter 173-548 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) for that day was 2197 cfs. The river flow is dropping and fast approaching the adopted minimum flows.

Beginning Monday, June 21, 2004, you must call the River Flow Information Line any day you intend to divert water. The recorded message will advise you of the actual river flow, the minimum flow, whether or not your river reach is open or closed for water diversion, and when the message will be updated next. The recorded message will modify this Order on a daily basis, if appropriate. The Toll-Free number is **1-800-348-0844**. If you do not have access to a touch tone phone, you must call the Central Regional Office at (509) 575-2490 to request the latest information.

This Order will remain in effect throughout the 2004 irrigation season. You may divert or withdraw water under «ControlNo» only when advised by the River Flow Information Line that the actual river flows for your reach of the Methow River and downstream reaches are above the adopted minimum flows. It is your responsibility to call each day before pumping to determine that your reach of the river and downstream reaches are above the minimum flows. If you have any questions about the daily messages, contact the Department of Ecology at (509) 575-2490 for clarification.

This Order may be appealed pursuant to RCW Chapter 43.21B. Any person wishing to appeal this Order must file an appeal with the Pollution Control Hearings Board **within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Order**. Send the appeal to: Pollution Control Hearings Board, PO Box 40903, Olympia, Washington 98504-0903. At the same time, a copy of the appeal **must** be sent to: Department of Ecology, Water Resources Appeals Coordinator, PO Box 47600, Olympia, Washington 98504-7600.

Signed at Yakima, Washington, this 17th day of June 2004.


Robert F Barwin, Section Manager
Water Resources Program
Central Regional Office